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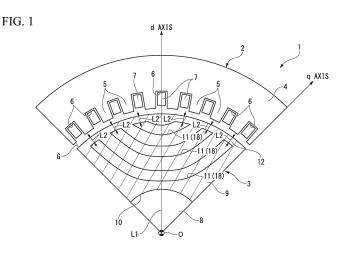
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(54) SYNCHRONOUS RELUCTANCE MOTOR

(57) A synchronous reluctance motor of an embodiment includes a shaft, a rotor core, a stator core, and multipole multiphase armature windings. The shaft is rotatably supported and extends in an axial direction at a center of the rotating shaft. The rotor core is externally fitted and fixed to the shaft. A plurality of hollow portions are formed in each quarter-circumference circumferential angular region in the rotor core. The plurality of hollow

portions are curved toward a radial inner side so that each of the centers in the circumferential direction is positioned on a radial innermost side in the quarter-circumference circumferential angular region of the rotor core, and are disposed side by side in a radial direction. A ratio of a occupied area of the hollow portions on a mainsurface of the stator core to an entire area of the mainsurface of the stator core is set to 35% to 39%.



Description

FIELD

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5 **[0001]** Embodiments of the present invention relate to a synchronous reluctance motor.

BACKGROUND

[0002] A synchronous reluctance motor includes a rotor and a stator. The rotor includes a shaft rotatably supported and extending in an axial direction at a center of a rotational axis, and a rotor core externally fitted and fixed to the shaft and in which a plurality of flux barriers are formed. The stator includes a stator core having a plurality of teeth disposed on an inner surface facing an outer surface of the rotor core and being spaced apart from the rotor core. The plurality of teeth are arranged to be spaced apart from each other in a circumferential direction of the staor core and multipole multiphase armature windings respectively wound around the plurality of teeth. Thus, the synchronous reluctance motor rotates the shaft using a reluctance torque generated by the flux barriers.

[0003] In this manner, since a reluctance torque is generated by the flux barriers, a proportion of the area occupied by the flux barriers to the entire area on a main surface, perpendicular to the rotational axis, of the rotor core (hereinafter referred to as an occupied area proportion of the flux barrier) greatly affects characteristics of the synchronous reluctance motor.

[0004] Conventionally, it is known that the torque performance of a synchronous reluctance motor can be maximized when the occupied area proportion of the flux barrier to the entire area on the main surface of the rotor core is set to appropriately 33%.

[0005] However, when a motor is driven at a variable speed using an inverter or the like, a torque required for the motor generally decreases as the rotation speed increases. That is, the torque becomes the largest in a low speed range at the time of starting, and requires a constant torque performance. Also, in a medium speed range, the torque decreases in inverse proportion to the rotation speed, and an output becomes a constant output (output torque \times rotation speed). Further, in a high speed range, a torque reduction becomes large. Therefore, as a drive control method of a motor driven at a variable speed, for example, from the start to the low speed range or the medium speed range, it is common to perform a V/F constant control in which a voltage/frequency ratio is constant. In contrast, in a high speed range, a field-weakening control in which a maximum voltage value is controlled to be constant is performed.

[0006] That is, depending on the performance (withstanding voltage or maximum current) of a switching element (insulated gate bipolar transistor (IGBT), metal oxide semiconductor field effect transistor (MOS-FET), and the like), a voltage and a current output by an inverter are limited. In general, as a withstanding voltage or a maximum current becomes larger, the cost of a device becomes higher, and thus it is preferable to reduce a voltage or current as much as possible. Since an induced voltage is proportional to a frequency (rotation speed) according to Faraday's law, a terminal voltage of a motor when the rotation speed is low has a margin with respect to a maximum voltage of the inverter. In this range, it is common to perform control so that the current is minimized (maximum torque control in which only a torque current flows). This is V/F constant control. Further, the torque current refers to a current supplied to the armature windings to generate a torque in the rotor core.

[0007] On the other hand, in the high speed range, the terminal voltage of the motor becomes equal to the maximum voltage of the inverter. In order to rotate at a rotation speed higher than the maximum voltage, it is necessary to perform control so that a weakening current (advancing a phase of the current) is supplied in addition to the torque current to negate the induced voltage. This is field-weakening control. That is, as the rotation speed increases, a ratio of the weakening current to the torque current increases, and the motor current required for a unit output torque increases.

[0008] Therefore, in a constant speed synchronous reluctance motor which always operates with maximum torque control, it is preferable to set a ratio of the occupied area of the flux barriers to appropriately 33%. However, in the synchronous reluctance motor that performs variable speed drive, when the ratio of the occupied area of the flux barriers is set to appropriately 33%, the motor performance at the time of field-weakening control is significantly degraded. Also, when the motor performance is degraded, the current required for driving the synchronous reluctance motor increases, and an expensive switching element with a large current capacity is required. As a result, the cost of the entire motor drive system may increase.

PRIOR ART DOCUMENTS

55 PATENT DOCUMENTS

[0009] [PATENT DOCUMENT 1] Japanese Unexamined Patent Application, First Publication No. 2004-96909

SUMMARY

PROBLEMS TO BE SOLVED BY THE INVENTION

5 [0010] The present invention is directed to providing a synchronous reluctance motor capable of improving motor performance.

MEANS FOR SOLVING THE PROBLEMS

[0011] A synchronous reluctance motor of an embodiment includes a shaft, a rotor core, a stator core, and multipole multiphase armature windings. The shaft is rotatably supported and extends in an axial direction at a center of the rotating shaft. The rotor core is externally fitted and fixed to the shaft. The stator core includes a plurality of teeth disposed on an outer circumference of the rotor core to be spaced apart from the rotor core and arranged to be spaced apart from each other in a circumferential direction. The multipole multiphase armature windings are respectively wound around the plurality of teeth. In addition, a plurality of hollow portions are formed in each quarter-circumference circumferential angular region in the rotor core. The plurality of hollow portions are curved toward a radial inner side so that each of the centers in the circumferential direction is positioned on a radial innermost side in the quarter-circumference circumferential angular region of the rotor core and are disposed side by side in a radial direction. Then, a ratio of occupied area of the hollow portions on a main surface of the stator core to an entire area of the main surface of the stator core is set to 35% to 39%.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0012]

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- FIG. 1 is a cross-sectional view perpendicular to a rotating shaft showing a configuration of a portion of a synchronous reluctance motor of an embodiment.
- FIG. 2 is a graph showing a change in torque of the synchronous reluctance motor in V/F constant control of the embodiment.
- FIG. 3 is a graph showing a change in current required per unit output torque of the synchronous reluctance motor in V/F constant control of the embodiment.
- FIG. 4 is a graph showing a change in power factor of the synchronous reluctance motor in field-weakening control of the embodiment.
- FIG. 5 is a graph showing a change in current required per unit output torque of the synchronous reluctance motor in field-weakening control of the embodiment.
- FIG. 6 is a graph showing a change in variable speed motor current indicator in the synchronous reluctance motor of the embodiment.
- FIG. 7 is a graph showing a range from a minimum value of the variable speed motor current indicator to a value increased by 2% in the synchronous reluctance motor of the embodiment.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0013] Hereinafter, a synchronous reluctance motor with respect to an embodiment will be described with reference to the drawings.

- [0014] FIG. 1 is a cross-sectional view perpendicular to a rotating shaft 8 showing a configuration of a portion of a synchronous reluctance motor 1. In FIG. 1, a quarter sector of the synchronous reluctance motor 1, that is, only a quarter-circumferential region is shown.
 - **[0015]** As shown in the same drawing, the synchronous reluctance motor 1 includes a stator 2 in a substantially cylindrical shape and a rotor 3 provided on the inner side of the stator 2 in a radial direction and provided to be rotatable with respect to the stator 2. Further, the stator 2 and the rotor 3 are disposed in a state in which central axes thereof are positioned on a common axis. Hereinafter, the above-described common axis will be referred to as a central axis O, a direction perpendicular to the central axis O will be referred to as a radial direction, and a direction of revolving around the central axis O will be referred to as a circumferential direction.
 - **[0016]** The stator 2 has a substantially cylindrical stator core 4. The stator core 4 can be formed by stacking a plurality of electromagnetic steel plates or by compression-molding a soft magnetic powder. On an inner surface of the stator core 4, a plurality of teeth 5 protruding toward the central axis O and arranged at regular intervals in the circumferential direction are integrally molded. The teeth 5 are formed to have a substantially rectangular cross section. Also, slots 6 are formed respectively between the adjacent teeth 5. Through these slots 6, armature windings 7 are wound around

each tooth 5.

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[0017] An insulator having an insulating property is attached on the stator core 4, or the entire outer surface of the stator core 4 is covered with an insulating film (none of them are shown). Also, the armature windings 7 are wound around each tooth 5 from above the insulator or the insulating film.

[0018] The rotor 3 includes the rotating shaft 8 extending along the central axis O and a substantially columnar rotor core 9 externally fitted and fixed to the rotating shaft 8.

[0019] The rotor core 9 can be formed by stacking a plurality of electromagnetic steel plates or by compression-molding a soft magnetic powder. An outer diameter of the rotor core 9 is set so that a predetermined air gap G is formed between the rotor core 9 and each of the teeth 5 facing thereto in the radial direction.

[0020] In addition, a through-hole 10 passing through the central axis O is formed at a radial center of the rotor core 9. The rotating shaft 8 is press-fitted or the like to the through-hole 10, and thereby the rotating shaft 8 and the rotor core 9 rotate integrally.

[0021] Further, a plurality (for example, three in the present embodiment) of flux barriers 11 are formed in each quarter-circumferential angular region in the rotor core 9. Each of the flux barriers 11 is a plurality of hollow portions 18 formed to have a substantially arc-shaped cross section curved toward a radial inner side so that each of the centers in the circumferential direction is positioned on a radial innermost side so as to follow a flow of a q-axis magnetic flux.

[0022] Also, the plurality of hollow portions 18 are disposed side by side in the radial direction so that each center in the circumferential direction is positioned on a predetermined straight line L1 extending in the radial direction. Further, distances L2 between each of opposite ends in the circumferential direction of the plurality of hollow portions 18 and an outer circumferential portion of the rotor core 9 are set to be substantially the same. Therefore, the plurality of hollow portions 18 are formed so that a circumferential length of a hollow portion 18 positioned on the radial inner side is longer than a circumferential length of a hollow portion 18 positioned on the radial outer side.

[0023] Further, the predetermined straight line L1 is a straight line passing through a circumferential center of the quarter- circumferential angular region of the rotor core 9 and the central axis O. Also, as the flux barriers 11, the hollow portions 18 may be filled with a nonmagnetic material (for example, a nonconductive resin), or a plate-shaped nonmagnetic material corresponding to each of the hollow portions 18 may be inserted. That is, the flux barriers 11 may be configured so that a magnetic flux cannot easily pass therethrough.

[0024] In addition, since a bridge 12 (the distance L2 between each of the opposite ends in the circumferential direction of the plurality of hollow portions 18 and the outer circumferential portion of the rotor core 9) is provided on the outer circumferential portion of the rotor core 9, the rotor core 9 is integrated into one body even in a state in which the flux barriers 11 are formed.

[0025] Further, a position of the bridge 12 is not limited to the outer circumferential portion of the rotor core 9, and may be at any position as long as the rotor core 9 is integrated into one body.

[0026] For example, the bridge 12 may be formed in the flux barriers 11 (hollow portions 18). When the bridge 12 is formed, a rigidity of the rotor core 9 (hollow portions 18) can be increased. Here, when the bridge 12 is formed in the hollow portions 18, it is formed so that a magnetic flux is saturated in the bridge 12. With the configuration as above, it is possible to prevent a magnetic flux from passing through the flux barriers 11.

[0027] Here, ratio of an occupied area of the flux barriers 11, that is, ratio of an occupied area of the flux barriers 11 to an entire area on a main surface of the rotor core 9 (a quadrupled area of a hatch portion in FIG. 1) is set to 35% to 39%. Hereinafter, the ratio of the occupied area of the flux barriers 11 will be described in detail.

[0028] FIG. 2 is a graph showing a change in torque of the synchronous reluctance motor 1 in V/F constant control. More specifically, FIG. 2 is a graph showing a change in torque under V/F constant control when the vertical axis is a torque and the horizontal axis is the ratio [%] of the occupied area of the flux barriers 11. In FIG. 2, the ratio of the occupied area of the flux barriers 11 is changed while maintaining a constant torque current.

[0029] FIG. 3 is a graph showing the reciprocal of the torque characteristics T1 in FIG. 2. The reciprocal of the torque characteristics may be regarded as a torque current required per unit output torque "when there is no voltage limitation (when a voltage is not taken into consideration)." That is, FIG. 3 is a graph showing a change in current I1 required per unit output torque in V/F constant control when the vertical axis is the current I1 [%] required per unit output torque and the horizontal axis is the ratio [%] of the occupied area of the flux barriers 11. Further, a minimum value of the current I1 required per unit output torque is defined as 100%.

[0030] As shown in the same drawing, when the ratio of the occupied area of the flux barriers 11 is set to appropriately 33%, it can be confirmed that the current I1 required per unit output torque is minimized in V/F constant control.

[0031] Here, as described above, at the time of field-weakening control, since a voltage limitation occurs due to a capacity of an inverter or the like, an influence of the voltage is necessarily considered. Therefore, at the time of field-weakening control, it is difficult to evaluate motor performance with the torque characteristics T1 as shown in FIG. 2. Therefore, it is evaluated as follows.

[0032] FIG. 4 is a graph showing a change in power factor of the synchronous reluctance motor 1 in field-weakening control. More specifically, FIG. 4 is a graph showing a change in power factor when the vertical axis is a power factor

and the horizontal axis is the occupied area proportion of the flux barriers 11.

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[0033] The power factor is a ratio of an effective power to an apparent power, and a power factor $\cos \theta$ is defined as a physical quantity that satisfies

$$\cos \theta = 2\pi NT/VI \cdots (1)$$

when the power factor is $\cos \theta$, a rotation speed of the rotor 3 is N, a torque is T, a voltage is V, and a current is I. (Strictly speaking, a value obtained by adding a loss to the output $2\pi NT$ is the effective power, but the value is small and omitted for the sake of simplifying the description.)

[0034] As shown in FIG. 4, it can be confirmed that the power factor $\cos \theta$ of the synchronous reluctance motor 1 is maximized when the ratio of the occupied area of the flux barriers 11 is set to appropriately 43%.

[0035] Here, the power factor $\cos\theta$ satisfies Expression (1). When considered at an arbitrary rotation speed N during field-weakening control, since the rotation speed N and the voltage V are constant, the reciprocal 1/cos θ of the power factor is proportional to a value I/T obtained by dividing the current by the torque. That is, the reciprocal of the field-weakening control can be considered as a current required per unit output torque "when there is a voltage limitation." Therefore, the motor performance of the synchronous reluctance motor 1 in the field-weakening control in which there is a voltage limitation can be evaluated by the reciprocal of the power factor $\cos\theta$.

[0036] FIG. 5 is a graph showing the reciprocal of the power factor $\cos \theta$ in FIG. 4. That is, FIG. 5 is a graph showing a change in current I2 required per unit output torque in field-weakening control when the vertical axis is the current I2 [%] required per unit output torque and the horizontal axis is the occupied area proportion [%] of the flux barriers 11. Further, a minimum value of the current I2 required per unit output torque is defined as 100%.

[0037] As shown in the same drawing, when the ratio of the occupied area of the flux barriers 11 is set to appropriately 43%, it can be confirmed that the current I2 required per unit output torque is minimized in field-weakening control. Also, as conventionally defined, when the ratio of the occupied area of the flux barriers 11 is set to appropriately 33%, in the field-weakening control, it can be confirmed that the current is greatly increased and the motor performance at the time of field-weakening control is remarkably degraded.

[0038] Incidentally, while the V/F constant control and the field-weakening control have been individually evaluated and an optimum ratio of the occupied area of the flux barriers 11 optimum for each control has been obtained, when two controls of the V/F constant control and the field-weakening control (hereinafter simply referred to as two controls) are performed with one synchronous reluctance motor 1, it is necessary to simultaneously optimize the two controls. Therefore, between the value of the current I1 required per unit output torque in the V/F constant control and the value of the current I2 required per unit output torque in the field-weakening control, a greater one is defined as a variable speed motor current indicator S1.

[0039] That is, the variable speed motor current indicator S1 is represented by a function h(x) which can be defined by a function f(x) and a function g(x), and the motor performance when the two controls are performed with one synchronous reluctance motor 1 is evaluated by the function h(x). Here, the function h(x) can be expressed by the following Expression (2). In the present embodiment, the function f(x) indicates the current I1 required per unit output torque when there is no voltage limitation, and the function g(x) indicates the current I2 required per unit output torque when there is a voltage limitation. Also, a value at which the variable speed motor current indicator S 1 is minimized is designed to be a current in which the two controls with one synchronous reluctance motor 1 are taken into account is minimized. [Math. 1]

$$h(x) = \begin{cases} f(x) & (f(x) > g(x)) \\ g(x) & (f(x) \le g(x)) \end{cases}$$
 (2)

[0040] FIG. 6 is a graph showing a change in the variable speed motor current indicator S1 when the vertical axis is the variable speed motor current indicator S1 [%] and the horizontal axis is the ratio [%] of the occupied area of the flux barriers 11.

[0041] As shown in the same drawing, it can be confirmed that the variable speed motor current indicator S1 is the smallest when the occupied area proportion of the flux barriers 11 is set to appropriately 37.5%. This means that the current required for operating the synchronous reluctance motor 1 over the entire variable speed range is minimized.

[0042] FIG. 7 is a graph showing a range from a minimum value of the variable speed motor current indicator S1 to a value increased by 2% on the graph showing a change in the variable speed motor current indicator S1 shown in Fig.FIG. 6.

[0043] It can be confirmed from the same drawing that, when the ratio of the occupied area of the flux barriers 11 is

set to 35% to 39%, a rise of the variable speed motor current indicator S1 from the minimum value can be suppressed to be within 2%. That is, practically, when the ratio of the occupied area of the flux barriers 11 is set to 35% to 39%, the motor current required for variable speed driving cannot easily increase and there is no need to increase a current capacity of switching elements of an inverter. On the other hand, when the ratio of the occupied area of the flux barriers 11 is set to a value deviating from 35% to 39%, the motor current required for operating over the entire variable speed range is greatly increased, and an expensive switching element with a large current capacity is required. As a result, costs of the entire system are increased.

[0044] Therefore, according to the above-described embodiment, even when the synchronous reluctance motor 1 is driven by the two control methods (that is, variable speed drive), it is possible to prevent the motor current from being significantly increased by setting the ratio of the occupied area of the flux barriers 11 to 35% to 39%. Therefore, it is possible to provide a synchronous reluctance motor 1 which has excellent motor performance over the entire operation range, in which a current capacity of switching elements of the inverter can be minimized, and in which costs of the entire motor drive system can be minimized.

[0045] Further, since the flux barriers 11 formed in the rotor core 9 are formed to have a substantially arc-shaped cross section curved toward the radial inner side to follow a flow of the q-axis magnetic flux, it is possible to efficiently generate a reluctance torque.

[0046] Further, in the above-described embodiment, the case in which each of the flux barriers 11 is formed to have a substantially arc-shaped cross section curved toward the radial inner side to follow a flow of the q-axis magnetic flux has been described. However, the present invention is not limited thereto, and it may be formed so that a reluctance torque is generated by the flux barriers 11 and a shape of the flux barriers 11 can be arbitrarily set.

[0047] In addition, in the above-described embodiment, the case in which three flux barriers 11 are formed in each quarter-circumference circumferential angular region of the rotor core 9 has been described, but the present invention is not limited thereto, and the number of flux barriers 11 to be formed can be arbitrarily set.

[0048] According to at least one embodiment described above, even when the synchronous reluctance motor 1 is driven by the two control methods, it is possible to prevent the motor current from being significantly increased by setting the ratio of the occupied area of the flux barriers 11 to 35% to 39%. Therefore, it is possible to provide a synchronous reluctance motor 1 which can minimize a current capacity of a switching element of the inverter and in which costs of the entire motor drive system can be minimized.

[0049] In addition, since the flux barriers 11 formed in the rotor core 9 are formed to have a substantially arc-shaped cross section curved toward the radial inner side to follow a flow of the q-axis magnetic flux, it is possible to efficiently generate a reluctance torque.

[0050] While certain embodiments have been described, these embodiments have been presented by way of example only, and are not intended to limit the scope of the inventions. Indeed, the novel embodiments described herein may be embodied in a variety of other forms; furthermore, various omissions, substitutions, and changes in the form of the embodiments described herein may be made without departing from the inventions. The accompanying claims and their equivalents are intended to cover such forms or modifications as would fall within the scope of the inventions.

DESCRIPTION OF REFERENCE NUMERAL

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- 1 Synchronous reluctance motor
- 2 Stator
- 3 Rotor
- 4 Stator core
- 5 Teeth
- 7 Armature winding
- 8 Rotating shaft (shaft)
- 9 Rotor core
- 11 Flux barrier
 - 18 Hollow portion

Claims

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1. A synchronous reluctance motor comprising:

a shaft rotatably supported and extending in an axial direction at a center of the rotating shaft;

a rotor core externally fitted and fixed to the shaft;

a stator core including a plurality of teeth disposed on an outer circumference of the rotor core to be spaced apart from the rotor core and arranged to be spaced apart from each other in a circumferential direction; and multipole multiphase armature windings respectively wound around the plurality of teeth, wherein

a plurality of hollow portions are formed in each quarter- circumference circumferential angular region in the rotor core,

the plurality of hollow portions are curved toward the radial inner side so that each of the centers in the circumferential direction is positioned on a radial innermost side in the quarter-circumference circumferential angular region of the rotor core and are disposed side by side in a radial direction, and

a ratio of occupied area of the hollow portions on a mainsurface of the stator core to an entire area of the mainsurface of the stator core is set to 35% to 39%.

2. The synchronous reluctance motor according to claim 1, wherein the synchronous reluctance motor is variable-speed driven and performs field-weakening control which reduces an induced voltage at the time of high speed rotation.

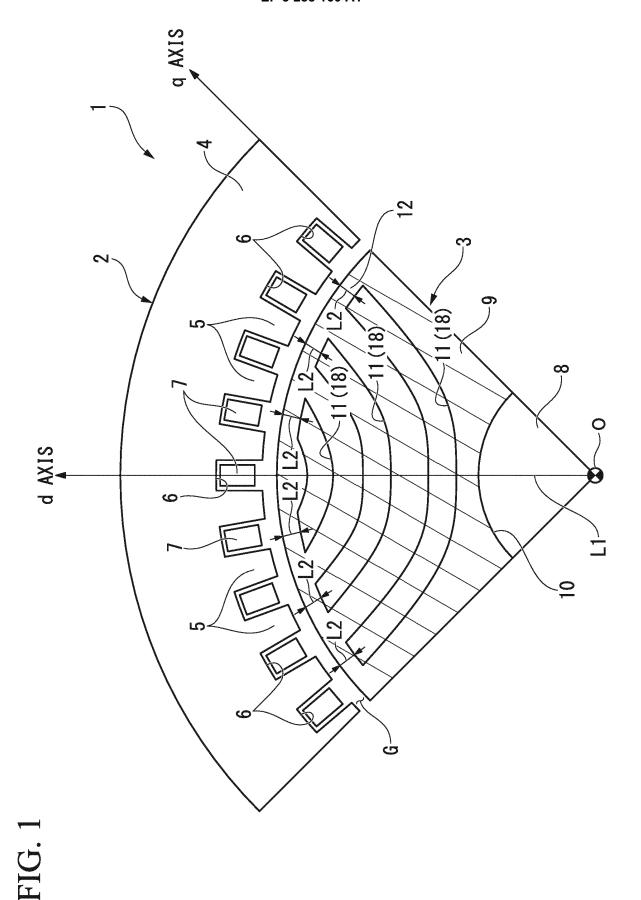


FIG. 2

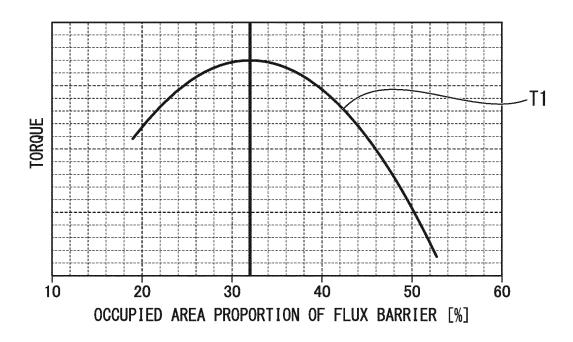


FIG. 3

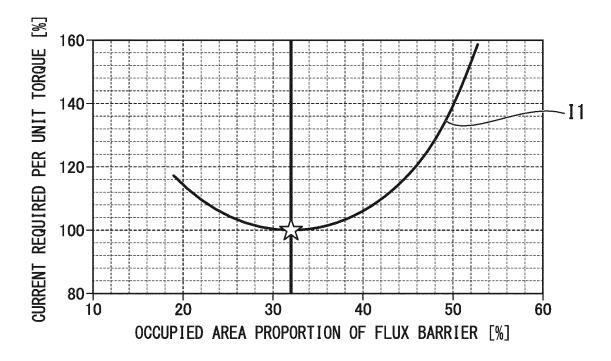


FIG. 4

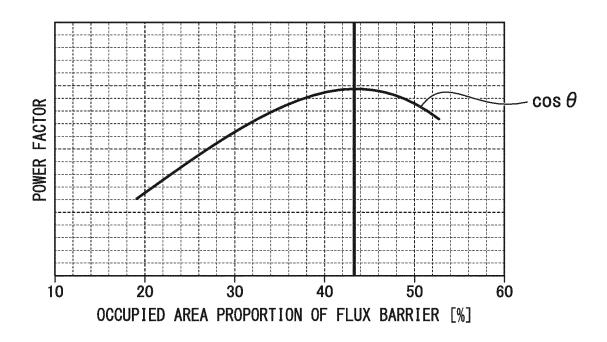


FIG. 5

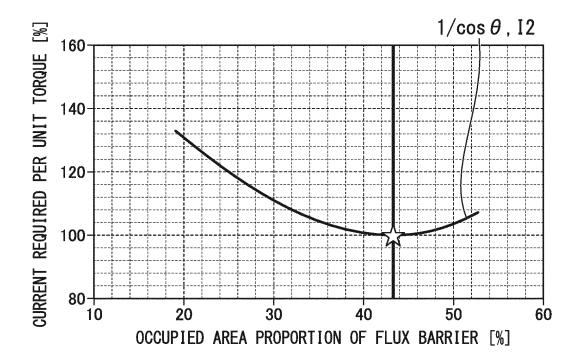


FIG. 6

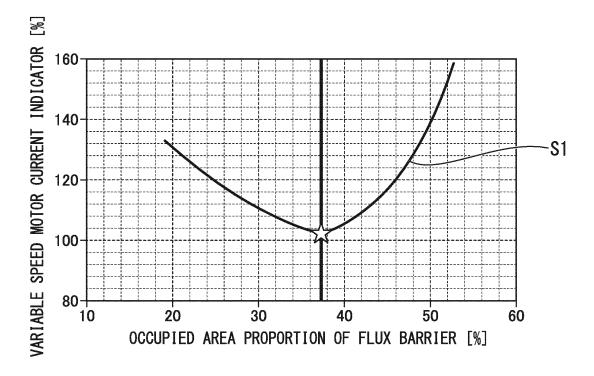
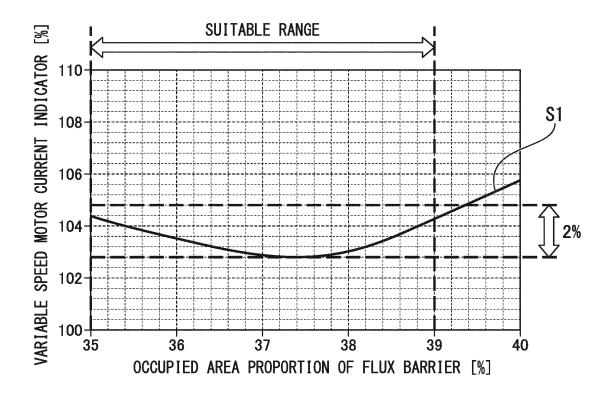


FIG. 7



	INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT	In	nternational application No.
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	CATION OF SUBJECT MATTER (2006.01) i	·	
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B. FIELDS SE			
Minimum docur H02K19/10	nentation searched (classification system followed by cl	assification symbols)	
Jitsuvo		ent that such documents tsuyo Shinan Tor roku Jitsuyo Shi	roku Koho 1996–2016
	pase consulted during the international search (name of	data base and, where pra	acticable, search terms used)
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where ap	propriate, of the relevant	t passages Relevant to claim No.
A	JP 2008-283775 A (Honda Motor Co., Ltd.), 20 November 2008 (20.11.2008), paragraphs [0024] to [0033]; fig. 2 to 3, 7 (Family: none)		1-2
А	JP 2002-165427 A (Fujitsu General Ltd.), 07 June 2002 (07.06.2002), entire text; all drawings (Family: none)		1-2
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× Further do	ocuments are listed in the continuation of Box C.	See patent famil	y annex.
** Special categories of cited documents: "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date		 "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive 	
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Date of the actual completion of the international search 09 June 2016 (09.06.16)		"&" document member of the same patent family Date of mailing of the international search report 21 June 2016 (21.06.16)	
Name and mailing address of the ISA/ Japan Patent Office 3-4-3, Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8915, Japan Form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet) (January 2015)		Authorized officer Telephone No.	

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Form PCT/ISA/210 (continuation of second sheet) (January 2015)

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REFERENCES CITED IN THE DESCRIPTION

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